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or the appearances suggestive should be subjected to a necropsy. Frequent inspections and inquiry into sanitary conditions should be made, and for this purpose the city should be divided into districts, with a competent medical man in charge of each district and with a corps of foremen and laborers under his direction to effect sanitary betterments. The minutest care should be exercised in these inspections and these operations. Success will attend painstaking efforts; failure will be the result of a perfunctory performance of the duty.

#### OUTGOING QUARANTINE.

If the city in which plague makes its appearance is a seaport, there should be a careful scrutiny of all outgoing vessels, and vessels prior to taking on cargo should be fumigated by sulphur or other methods while empty to insure the destruction of rats, and precautions should be taken to prevent the ingress of possibly infected rats on board the vessel and their transportation to other localities. Rats are great travelers. To exclude them, if the vessels lie at wharves, they should be breasted or fended off for a distance of at least 6 feet; all lines connecting the vessel with wharves should be provided with rat funnels, and for a distance of at least 2 feet between the shore and the opening of the funnels the line should be copiously tarred. Gangways connecting vessels with the wharf should be guarded during the day, and after night the gangways should be raised a distance of at least 6 feet from the decking of the wharf. If possible, all wharves should be rendered rat proof, or, if this is impracticable, articles of cargo attractive to rats should be stored upon the wharf in rat-proof inclosures. Another point worthy of careful consideration, is the collection, and, if possible, the destruction, or at least the sterilization, of all rags collected in a plague-infected city. It is quite possible that dressings used in the treatment of cases of plague may escape destruction, which should be a routine measure, and may be gathered by rag pickers. Rags also may harbor plague-infected rats and become soiled by their discharges or dejecta.

There is appended hereto an article on the trapping of rats, the result of experience and observation in the past few months in San Francisco, Cal.

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#### HOW TO TRAP RATS.

By Passed Assistant Surgeon W. C. Rucker, San Francisco, Cal.

The following is a summary of a collection of articles written by the employees of the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service engaged in rat catching at San Francisco, Cal. These men have demonstrated their knowledge of the subject by continuously large catches, and what is detailed here is the result of actual experience:

Rats are to be found where there is an abundant food supply for them. Therefore, the best places to trap rats are slaughterhouses, meat markets, chicken houses, in and around garbage cans, and places where garbage is usually placed. If the rat is deprived of this food supply it will be attracted by the bait in the trap and thus enter the trap.

The large 19-inch French wire-cage trap has given very good results where rats are plentiful. It should be made of stiff, heavy wire and well reinforced, as a large, strong rat will force his head between the wires of a weak trap and thus escape. Before setting, the lever on the trap should be tested to see that it works properly.

The trap should be placed on a hard surface with the rear end a little higher than the entrance, so that the trap will close promptly. When setting the trap in an open place it should be fastened to a board on which about an inch of soft dirt has been spread. Place the trap where rats usually go for food, or in a runway, and disturb the surroundings as little as possible. It is sometimes well to place the trap near dripping water, as the rats may go there to drink. If the trap is set in hay, straw, or wood, it should be covered (with the exception of the entrance) with the same material. When this is not possible, it should be covered with a piece of sacking, or placed in a dark corner, or beneath the floors. When setting the traps in the sewer, a dry place should be chosen.

The rat is more or less of an epicure, therefore the bait should be changed at frequent intervals. For bait the rat should be given food which is not usual for him to obtain. In a meat market, for example, vegetables are the best bait, while in a location where vegetables are plentiful, fresh liver and fish heads or a little grain are best. The following may be suggested as good bait to be used: Fish, fish heads, raw meat, cheese, smoked fish, fresh liver, cooked corned beef, fried bacon, pine nuts, apples, carrots, and corn. When trapping in chicken yards a small chick or duckling is a remarkably good bait. When a large number of rats are caught in one trap, search for the female rat and leave her alive in the trap, as she may call in the young or the males. The bait should be fastened to the inner side of the top of the trap with a piece of fine wire, so that the first rat that goes in can not force the bait underneath the pan and thus prevent the entrance of other rats. A few grains of barley should be scattered near the entrance of the trap and a small piece of cheese or meat fastened to the pan with a bit of wire. It is often well to touch the pan with a feather which has been dipped in oil of anise or oil of rhodium. The trap should be smoked with a piece of burning newspaper to take away the smell of the human hands, or of rats which have been caught in the trap. Do not handle the trap after burning it out. When trapping in a neighborhood where rats are known to exist, the traps should not be moved for three or four days unless they have rats in them, as it is well for the rats to become accustomed to seeing the traps and thus careless about entering them. It is not wise to kill rats where they are caught, as the squealing may frighten away the other rats.

Snap or spring traps are best for use in houses and stores, with the exception of fish and meat markets. Snap traps are best for use in runways and on beams and shelves. It is sometimes well to disguise the trap by covering its floor with a little sawdust or dirt. The traps should first be tested to see that they work properly and that the staples are secure. New traps should be smoked or stained to render them of an inconspicuous color.

The bait should consist of some firm material, such as fried bacon or tough meat, and should be tied on so that the rat will be obliged to pull on it and thus spring the trap. The trap should be placed in a corner or close to the wall on a flat, hard surface in order that the rat can not spring it with his tail or by walking on it.

In warehouses and granaries large numbers of rats may frequently be trapped by using a barrel or garbage can having a metal top which is carefully balanced. A large piece of strong cheese is placed in the middle of the cover and a plank laid from the floor to the edge of the barrel. The rat runs up the plank and on the smooth metallic lid, which tips, precipitating the rat into the barrel.

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#### PRESIDENCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

The following letter of acceptance of the presidency of the International Congress on Tuberculosis has been sent by the President of the United States to Dr. Lawrence F. Flick, chairman of the committee of arrangements for the congress:

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, May 12, 1908.

SIR: It is with great pleasure that I accept the presidency of the International Congress on Tuberculosis, which is to meet in this city on September 21, 1908, and extend its session to October 12, 1908. Official duties, however, may prevent my presiding at the initial meeting of the congress, in which case I will deputize Secretary Cortelyou.

The importance of the crusade against tuberculosis, in the interest of which this Congress convenes, can not be overestimated when it is realized that tuberculosis